



Name of Property:	John B. Gough House (additional documentation)
City, State:	Boylston, Massachusetts
Significant Dates:	1848-1886
NHL Criteria:	2
NHL Theme:	II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements 2. Reform Movements
Previous Recognition:	1974 National Historic Landmark
National Historic Context:	XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements B. Temperance and Prohibition

NHL Significance:

- The John B. Gough House, known historically and today as Hillside, was the home of the internationally renowned nineteenth-century social reformer and temperance crusader John Bartholomew Gough from 1848 to 1886.
- For 44 years from 1842 to 1886, Gough captivated audiences all over the country with his impassioned appeals for temperance and his humorous stories which he used as a tool to deliver his more serious message of temperance. His oratorical skills in the cause of temperance made him one of the most sought-after speakers of his time.
- The temperance crusade buttressed the new social order of a developing industrial nation. By 1834, there were some 5,000 temperance societies with one million Americans pledging themselves to temperance.
- In the late nineteenth century, Gough's name was widely recognized. Gough was

the leader of a widespread social revolution that halved nineteenth-century alcohol consumption in America.

Integrity:

- Built by John B. Gough, the house is a New England frame house painted white, two stories tall, with a single-story bay on each side.
- Also on the property are a horse barn and a cart (carriage) house/workshop. Both of these outbuildings are contemporaneous with the main house.
- The estate remained as a residence and farm until ca. 1939 when the house was remodeled into three apartments. Purchased in 1953 by the Shepherd Knapp School, the house was a faculty residence until the school closed in 1976-78. Owned by the Digital Corporation and operated as a training center for a time, the property was ultimately purchased by the Town of Boylston.
- The Hillside Restoration Project, which began in 1998, is a joint venture between the Boylston Historical Society and Boylston's municipal leaders.
- Today the former John B. Gough property is enclosed by the town's police department building to the south, and the town offices/gymnasium building to the north.
- The purpose of additional documentation is to more precisely define the boundaries of the property and to clarify that the barn and carriage house are considered contributing resources to this already designated National Historic Landmark.

Owner of Property: Town of Boylston, Massachusetts

Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre.

Origins of Nomination: The National Historic Landmarks Program was contacted by a volunteer with the Hillside Restoration Project. The Project entailed the restoration of the John B. Gough House barn. In attempting to solicit grant funds, the Project leaders discovered they were being denied assistance because there was no clear documentation that the barn was a part of the NHL. Clarification of the official documentation was needed to prove that those two outbuildings were indeed within the boundaries of the John B. Gough NHL. The Hillside Restoration Project, with the support of the Town of Boylston and the State Historic Preservation Office, prepared the updated/additional documentation.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- The acceptance of this additional documentation will assist the Town of Boylston in its efforts to preserve this nationally significant historic property. It will also demonstrate the willingness of the National Historic Landmarks Program to update and improve the documentation for older designated properties.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Carson moved, Dr. Allan seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of 11/10/10):

Timothy Houlihan, President, Boylston Historical Society and Museum

James P. McGovern, U.S. Congress, Massachusetts

Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

James Stanton, Chairman, Roger Deal, Selectman, and Kenneth Sydow, Selectman, Town of Boylston, Massachusetts

Harold P. Naughton, State Representative, Chair, Veterans & Federal Affairs Committee, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Advisory Board Recommendation: